countries also.

Private Banks in Rural Areas

3538. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bank Trade Unions all over the country have opposed the establishment of private banks in the country particularly in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government to the protest?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the All-India Regional Rural Banks Employees Association (AIRRBEA) has represented against the decision to allow the establishment of new local banks in the private sector.

(b) With a view to providing institutional mechanisms for promoting rural savings as well as for the provision of credit for viable economc activities in the local areas, it has been decided to allow the establishment of new local banks in the private sector. This is expected to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional credit frame-work in rural and semi-urban areas. RBI's view is that the demand for credit in rural areas and potential for mobilising savings from rural areas is large enough to allow for the viable operations of these new banks.

New NTC Units

3539. SHRI DARBARA SINGH :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA':

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government propose to set up more Units of National Textile Corporation in the country particularly in Punjab and hilly areas of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Offload Percentage of Shares

3540. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to offload 74 percent state and retain a share of 26 percent in Public Sector Undertakings in non-core and non-strategic areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of Public Sector Undertakings which fall into these areas;

(c) the reaction of trade unions in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for the change in policy of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) A Disinvestment Commission has been constituted by the Government which shall inter alia draw a comprehensive overall long term disinvestment programme within 5 to 10 years for the PSUs referred to it and shall determine the extent of disinvestment in each of the PSU. The Govt. shall consider the recommendation of the Commission about the extent of disinvestment to be carried out in each PSU.

[Translation]

Suggestions of Vora Committee for P.S.E.

3541. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B.C. Vora was constituted to review the functioning of public sector enterprises and make suggestions for their reform;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(d) if so, details of the main recommendations made by it; and

(e) the action taken for implementing the recommendations made in this regard so far.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, a Working Group set up by the Planning Commission on Management of public enterprises' had constituted a sub-group under the Chairmanship of Shri B.C. Bora, Chairman, ONGC, on the "role of public sector enterprises". Besides Shri Bora, the sub-group consists of Dr. K.G. Ramanathan,